

WHEREAS, Every WIC dollar spent on prenatal care saves \$2 to \$3 in Medicaid funds within the first 60 days after birth; and

WHEREAS, 46,000 of the eligible women, infants, and children in Maryland are not served by the WIC Program due to limited federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Maryland does not provide State funding for the WIC Program, and 19 other states and the District of Columbia do provide funding; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture's Regional Office informed State WIC Directors that states that fund the WIC Program have an advantage in obtaining additional federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should provide State general funds to the WIC Program to help reduce the State's infant mortality rate; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

18-108.

(a) (1) In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Food instrument" means a voucher, check, coupon, or other document that is used by a participant to obtain supplemental foods.

(3) "Local agency" means a public or private, nonprofit health or human service agency that:

(i) Provides health services either directly or through contract; and

(ii) By written agreement with the State agency, provides Program services in a designated area.

(4) "Participant" means an individual who is receiving supplemental foods or food instruments under the Program and includes:

(i) Pregnant women;

(ii) Breast-feeding women up to 1 year postpartum who are breast-feeding their infants;

(iii) Postpartum women up to 6 months after termination of pregnancy;

(iv) Infants under 1 year of age; and

(v) Children who are at least 1 year old but under the age of 5 years.

(5) "Program" means the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children authorized by Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended.